

NSC BRIEFING

27 May 1959

SUDAN

- I. The coup attempt reported last week was made on 22 May, but aborted due primarily to:
 - A. Countermeasures taken by members of present Supreme Army Council, especially General Abboud's deputy, Brigadier Hasan Bashir Nasir (no relative of Egypt's Nasir).
 - B. Last minute split in ranks of coup supporters over who would be formal leader of government following coup.
- II. Some troops actually moved from outlying areas toward Khartoum, but were halted and returned to stations, where their pro-coup leaders were arrested. Among arrested is Lt. Col. Abd Al-Hafiz Shannan, apparently the fieriest of the coup's proponents.
 - A. However, there is division of opinion within the Supreme Army Council--which includes coup supporters--on how to deal with those arrested.
 - B. Under these conditions, tensions clearly persist and situation has not stabilized. We can expect new tremors.
- III. Economically, Sudan has helped itself somewhat by sharply cutting prices on its long staple cotton. While the government's cash reserves have gone down further, it has virtually eliminated the burden of its long staple cotton surplus.

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